

From: Syversen, Jason
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 11/30/01 5:10pm
Subject: Proposed Microsoft Settlement

To whom it concerns,

I'm writing in opposition to the "penalty" that Microsoft is supposed to pay by installing their operating system on thousands of schools across the country. I'm opposed to any "solution" which encourages the spread of Microsoft's monopoly any further then it already has. Look at Microsoft's primary competitor's responses (Apple, Redhat, etc.) to get a feel for what a bad idea this is. Redhat's recommendation that their OS be installed on hardware paid for by Microsoft is a much better alternative, as it would be stunting Microsoft's monopoly position (ie, an actual penalty!) while providing poor schools with much needed educational tools.

It's also instructive to observe two key points. First, the cost to Microsoft is not \$1 billion in cash, but rather software equalling \$1 billion in retail value. Equating this to a \$1 billion penalty is ludicrous, as the real cost to Microsoft is much, much less. Second, the party's that originally brought the lawsuit get virtually nothing from this settlement, other then perhaps a (misguided) feeling of justice.

Please resist any recommendations by Microsoft that allow them to further their monopoly position. My favorite quote summarizing this foolishness was made by Albert A. Foer, president of the American Antitrust Institute, who told Motz in a letter that the proposed settlement could be considered anticompetitive, and likened Microsoft's position to that of "Brer Rabbit seeking the briar patch."

- Jason Syversen